

**Oral Testimony of  
Robert A. Pearce  
Acting Director  
Joint Planning and Development Office  
Oversight Hearing Before  
The House Science Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics  
Next Generation System Initiative  
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Thank you for this opportunity to testify with Under Secretary Shane at today's hearing. Let me add my thanks to you, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Udall and the entire subcommittee. You have been with us every step of the way – even before the enactment of VISION 100. We are most grateful for your continued leadership and commitment to this historic effort.

Mr. Chairman, Under Secretary Shane provided an excellent overview of our progress to date and a glimpse into the near future as we put into place such key transformational building blocks, as ADS-B and SWIM – both of which will deliver Next Generation capabilities and benefits. I hope any lingering doubts have been dispelled; the NGATS is for real and we mean business.

And today, I would like to provide the subcommittee with a brief snapshot of five key areas where I believe we can also make significant progress in the coming year and contribute to the transformation process. Indeed, I see 2006 as a breakthrough year for the Next Generation System initiative and the JPDO. All of the initial hard work is starting to pay off and we must now sustain the momentum generated in 2005.

First, we are building a remarkable team with incredible depth, focus and sense of purpose. Following the VISION 100 playbook, this unique public/private partnership is working together to make the NGATS vision a reality. Through the NGATS Institute, we have now recruited and placed on JPDO's eight Integrated Product Teams 200 of the best and brightest individuals from 70 different organizations. In 2006, we will expand this participation; and it can't come too soon.

We have already begun tasking the Institute and IPTs with real work that has a direct impact on the Next Generation System. For example, we know that satellite navigation will be a key enabling technology. But we also know that the U.S. must take definitive action this year on a GPS backup, as Europe must similarly do with Galileo. We have now asked the Institute to perform the research and recommend a fall-back mode, whether it's LORAN or another technology.

And under the leadership of Administrator Blakey, the JPDO is convening on April 19-20<sup>th</sup> the first NGATS Investment Analysis Workshop to develop the basis for cost estimates for the initiative's near- mid- and long-term development. We have asked the Institute to recruit the needed experts from across aviation to make this critical endeavor a success.

Second, Under Secretary Shane spoke about the unprecedented cooperation among the NGATS partner agencies. One critical part of that effort is the alignment of activities and resources towards the Next Generation System. To this end, in early summer of 2006, JPDO will provide thorough FY 2008 planning and programming

guidance to each of the participating agencies – a major milestone. That way we are all pulling together and maximizing investments.

Third, using this guidance, we can in turn create and implement portfolio management and build business cases against it. This will allow us to begin moving beyond the FAA's Operational Evolution Plan to the Next Generation System.

Fourth, we have two very important products scheduled for release and public comment and vetting this summer. The first is the Concept of Operations which describes how the future system is operated and how we move passengers from airport curb to airport curb.

We will also release the first version of an Enterprise Architecture that will contain Concepts of Use. This high-level blueprint will help decision-makers better understand the complexity of operations and allow us to successfully transition to the Next Generation System in a consistent, coordinated, cost-efficient and integrated manner. It is key to achieving mission goals. Admittedly this first cut will contain more questions than answers, but it will help foster greater debate and drive research and a much needed enterprise engineering integration discipline.

Fifth, JPDO will take on a greater international focus. To help ensure global interoperability, we are actively engaged in a number of cooperative activities with EUROCONTROL, such as a forthcoming meeting where we will compare NGATS and SESAR technology and concepts of use. NASA is also working closely with EUROCONTROL to coordinate R&D activities. In addition, EUROCONTROL is sending over a senior technical representative whose work will involve coordination of programs such as SESAR. And beyond Europe, JPDO is beginning to establish cooperative activities with Japan and China. Our work is clearly cut out as more countries transform their ATM systems.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my statement. I believe we are solidly on the right track and making solid progress towards delivering the Next Generation System. If we stay focused and manage risk, I am convinced we will succeed. I would be happy to answer your questions. Thank you.